

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 ABF-01
NSC-05 OMB-01 EB-08 /046 W
-----113271 252139Z /21
P 252030Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9381

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 4478

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MODE, FSPN, APER, ES
SUBJ: AMERICAN POSITION REDUCTION

REFS (A) TELCONS LUBENSKY/MATTHEWS AND HOOMORG/VERDIN
8/24/78, (B) SAN SALVADOR 3303, (C) SAN SALVADOR 4042 (STADIS)

1. EMBASSY DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH REDUCTION OF
POSITION 20-082, INCUMBENT FRANCES WHITE. POST HAS
ALREADY STRONGLY OPPOSED SUCH ACTION BASED ON THE
INCBEASED
WORKLOAD WITHIN ALL EMBASSY SECTIONS,
MOST PARTICULARLY IN POLITICAL AND SECURITY,
ALLOWING NO FLEXIBILITY IN COVERAGE OF AN ECONOMIC
SECTIONWITHOUT SECRETARY.

2. THREE EMBASSY SECRETARIES SOUGHT APPOINTMENT
AUG 24 WITH CHARGE AND DISCUSSED THEIR PERSONAL
CONCERNS OVER EXPECTED INCREASE IN POL SECRETARY
WORKLOAD AND CONCURRENT INCREASE OF ECON WORKLOAD
NOW THAT NEW CHIEF OF SECTION HAS ARRIVED. THE
WORKLOAD IN POL CURRENTLY IS EXTREMELY HEAVY AND IS
INCREASING DAILY AS A RESULT OF THE CONTINUED
UNREST WITHIN THE EL SALVADOR POLITICAL SCENE. THE
POL SECRETARY SERVES TWO OFFICERS AND MAJORITY OF
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DEMANDS ARE OF A CLASSIFIED NATURE, WITH APPPROXIMATELY
10 PERCENT UNCLASSIFIED. TO ABSORB DUTIES OF THE
ECON SECRETARY, WHO ALSO WORKS FOR TWO OFFICERS,
WOULD RESULT IN AN UNBEARABLE EXTRA BURDEN UPON
AN ALREADY OVERTAXED POL SECRETARY. THE
SECRETARIES ALSO VOICED CONCERN OVER SUCH MATTERS
AS TELEPHONE COVERAGE AND SECURITY FOR TWO OFFICES

PHYSICALLY REMOVED FROM EACH OTHER, AT PRESENT
AT OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE CHANCERY. YESTERDAY,
WITH ONE SECRETARY (AMB) ON ANNUAL LEAVE AND
THE
POL SECRETARY HOME ILL, EMBASSY WAS EXTREMELY
HARD PRESSED TO FULFILL SECRETARIAA REQUIREMENTS
FOR BOTH POL AND ECON. SECURITY VIOLATIONS RESULTED
AND SECRETARIES OBVIOUSLY ARE IN DISTRESSED STATE
WITH MORALE SUFFERING CONSIDERABLY. THE
SECRETARIES ALSO FELT THAT THE REDUCTION OF THE
ONE POSITION WOULD MAKE IT VERITABLY IMPOSSIBLE
FOR THEM EVEN TO LEAVE THEIR OFFICE FOR ANY
PURPOSE DURING THE WORK DAY, OR TO TAKE ANNUAL
LEAVE, AND THEY ARE CONCERNED OVER SECURITY, ESPECIALLY
WITH OFFICE COVERAGE AND VISITOR ESCORT PROCEDURES.
QUESTION HAS EVEN BEEN RAISED OVER POSSIBILITY OF
IMMEDIATE TRANSFER, OR EVEN RETIREMENT. SITUATIONS
SUCH AS THIS MAKE US REALIZE HOW ESSENTIAL A PART
OF OUR EFFORT SECRETARIES ARE.

3. ECON CHIEF ARRIVED AUG 22 FOLLOWING A FOUR-
MONTH HIATUS IN THE POSITION DURING WHICH TIME
ESSENTIAL REPORTING WAS NECESSARILY POST-
PONED. HE NATURALLY IS MOST CONCERNED WITH LIKELIHOOD
OF LOSING SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY WHEN
FACED WITH A HEAVY CATCH-UP WORKLOAD, AND IN VIEW
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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS PLACED UPON HIM RESULTING
FROM THE COMPLEX OF FACTORS RELATED TO CROSS-PLAY
BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS,
"BASIC HUMAN NEEDS" AND HUMAN RIGHTS, ALL PROBABLY
CLASSIFIED WORK.

4. EMBASSY AGAIN REQUESTS DEPARTMENT REALISTICALLY
TO VIEW THE NEEDS OF THE POST AND TO RECONSIDER
ITS POSITION ON REDUCTION OF POSITION 20-0821.
WE REALIZE POSITION DEPARTMENT IS IN ON MATTER OF
FORCE REDUCTION, BUT WE STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND
WHY A JOINT SUPPORT POSITION (I.E., PERSONNEL
OFFICER) CANNOT BE SWAPPED FOR A PROGRAM POSITION.
WE WOULD SINCERELY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE
ON HOW THE PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING A LEVEL OF
POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REPORTING SATISFACTORY TO
THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES. PERHAPS OTHER POST EXPERIENCE WOULD HELP.
LUBENSKY

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NNN

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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